F, MARK TWAIN AND THOMAS HARDY

F, like Hemingway and many another of that generation, was a lifelong admirer of the fiction of Mark Twain. His presentation copy of Van Wyck Brooks' THE ORDEAL OF MARK TWAIN (1920), now among the other books of his library at Princeton, is underlined and annotated. And we find him writing Edmund Wilson in 1921 (CU, p. 256) that he has just finished reading Albert Bigelow Paine's three-volume biography of Mark Twain and thinks it "excellent." He was a member of the International Mark Twain Society. And in 1935 when Cyril Clemens, president of this society, asked him for a short tribute, F sent him the following statement about HUCKLEBERRY FINN that is now published for the first time. It was read aloud during the Mark Twain Society's banquet on Nov. 30, 1935, celebrating the centenary of his birth, and a copy is among the F papers at Princeton.

"Huckleberry Finn took the first journey *back*. He was the first to look *back* at the republic from the perspective of the West. His eyes were the first eyes that ever looked at us objectively that were not eyes from overseas. There were mountains at the frontier but he wanted more than mountains to look at with his restless eyes—he wanted to find out about men and how they lived together. And because he turned back we have him forever."

In a recent letter to me describing the banquet, Mr. Clemens goes on to say that when he visited Thomas Hardy in England in 1925, three years before the novelist's death, Hardy told him that he had read and been greatly impressed by TSOP.

—Henry Dan Piper, California Institute of Technology

HAROLD OBER

Harold Ober died Oct. 31 of a heart attack at the age of 78. His clients included Faulkner, Salinger, and F. A 1905 graduate of Harvard, Mr. Ober met F while working for the Paul Reynolds agency. When he formed his own firm in 1929 F went with him.

Mr. Ober's services to F as agent and friend require no rehearsing here, but we would add that he was a generous friend of the FN.

BELOVED YOU-KNOW-WHAT

The film is wretched, and the critics gave it what-for. The only additional complaint we wish to record is that BI is bibliographically unsound. Miss Kerr-Graham reads from the rsv TITN, which was not published until 11 years after F's death; moreover, her copies of TSOP and GG appear to be vintage 1959.

CHECKLIST

Adams, J. D. "Speaking of Books," NYTBR (4 Oct. 1959), 2. F and O. Henry.

AUTHORS AT WORK, An Address Delivered by Robert H. Taylor . . . with a Catalogue of the Exhibition by Herman W. Liebert . . . Grolier Club, 1957. Includes facsimile of "Perfect Life" typescript.

Barrett, M. & Cahn, W. THE JAZZ AGE, Putnam's. Pictorial history based on the NBC Project 20 program, includes a good F photo.

Brinnin, J. M. THE THIRD ROSE, Atlantic, Little-Brown. Biography of Stein, mentions F.

Brookhouser, F. THESE WERE OUR YEARS, Doubleday. Anthology of the 20's and 30's; reprints "Echoes of the Jazz Age" and an inaccurate section from P. Sann's LAWLESS DECADE.

Bruccoli, M. J. "Bibliographical Notes on F's B&D, " SB XIII, 1960. 258-261.

Cowley, M., ed. WRITERS AT WORK, Viking Compass paperback. The PARIS REVIEW interviews; includes Dorothy Parker's remarks on F.

Dolbier, M. "Books and Authors," NY HERALD TRIBUNE BOOKS (30 Nov. 1958), 2. Interview with Miss Graham, with a F letter.

Farr, F. "In a Workmanlike Manner," NATIONAL REVIEW, VI (11 April 1959), 656-658. Praises F as literary workman.

F. GOURMET (Nov. 1959), 19. Reprints F's turkey recipes from CU.

Golden, H. "My Son, the Scott Fitzgerald-Nik," CAROLINA ISRAELITE (Sept.-Nov. 1959), 19-20. The beloved Israelite laughs at us.

Graham, S. & Frank, G. BI, Bantam reprint.

Leslie, S. "Letters to the Editor–F's First Novel," TLS (6 Nov. 1959), 643. With 5 letters from F, Dec. 1917-May 1918, discussing ROMANTIC EGOTIST, Monsignor Fay's death, and F's plan to become a priest. This is the special number of the TLS devoted to The American Imagination, which mentions F with respect (xvi). The whole thing is superb.

Lewis, R. W. B. THE AMERICAN ADAM, Univ. of Chicago, paper & cloth. Discusses GG briefly.

Ludwig, R. M. LIT HIST OF US, Bibliography Supplement, Macmillan. Pp. 121-122 have supplementary F bibliography.

Pivano, F. F. S. F. DI QUA DAL PARADISO, Mondadori, 1952, 68p.

Wilson, C. THE STATURE OF MAN, Houghton Mifflin. Discusses F's "affirmative and irrational mysticism."

FORTHCOMING

F. SIX TALES OF THE JAZZ AGE & OTHER STORIES. Introduction by Frances Fitzgerald Lanahan. Scribner's (March).

Jones, E. THE FATHER: Letters To Sons and Daughters. Rinehart (March). F to his daughter.

Tanner, L. HERE TODAY. Crowell (Jan.). F's career as one of 14 which typify changes since the 20's.

BRIEFS

Jackie Gleason is considering producing a CBS-TV special about F. He may even portray F–Gawd!

Hemingway has been saying that he is writing his account of the 20's in Paris.

The publication of the F letters in the TLS (see checklist) reinforces the conviction here that an edition of the F-Fay letters would be a noble project. Shane Leslie would be the ideal editor.

Printed at The University of Virginia Press

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